

IN THE CLAIMS:

The following is a complete listing of claims in this application.

1. (original) Inoculating alloy for cast iron containing (by weight) 0.005 to 3% of an element in the bismuth, lead and antimony group, 0.3 to 10% of metals in the group consisting of rare earths and possibly up to 5% of aluminium and up to 1.5% of calcium, the remainder being ferro-silicon, characterised in that lanthanum accounts for more than 90% of the rare earth metals used in its composition.

2. (original) Alloy according to claim 1, characterised in that it contains from 0.3 to 8% of lanthanum and from 0.2 to 1.5% of bismuth.

3. (currently amended) Alloy according to ~~one of claims 1 or 2~~ claim 1, characterised in that it contains between 0.7 and 1.3% of bismuth.

4. (currently amended) Alloy according to ~~one of claims 1 to 3~~ claim 1, characterised in that it contains between 0.5 and 5% of lanthanum.

5. (currently amended) Alloy according to ~~one of claims 1 to 4~~ claim 1, characterised in that it contains between 0.8 and 5% of aluminium.

6. (original) Alloy according to claim 5, characterised in that it contains between 1 and 3.5% of aluminium.

7. (currently amended) Alloy according to ~~one of claims 1 to 6~~ claim 1, characterised in that it is conditioned in the form of a powder.

8. (currently amended) Alloy according to ~~one of claims 1 to 6~~ claim 1, characterised in that it is conditioned in the form of slugs for treatment "in the mould".

9. (original) Alloy according to claim 8, characterised in that the slug is obtained by moulding from molten alloy.

10. (original) Alloy according to claim 8, characterised in that the slug is obtained by agglomeration of a powder.

11. (original) Alloy according to claim 10, characterised in that the powder grain size is smaller than 1 mm, with the size grading fraction between 50 and 250  $\mu\text{m}$  accounting for more than 35% of the total weight, and the fraction smaller than 50  $\mu\text{m}$  representing less than 25%.

12. (currently amended) Alloy according to ~~one of claims 10 or 11~~ claim 10, characterised in that the average composition of the alloy is obtained by a mix of alloy powders with different compositions